Approved For Release 2005/11/28 : CIA-RDP91-00901R000600100001-3

NEW YORK TIMES
23 DEC 1974

STAT

PROXMIRE TO SEEK INQUIRY ON C.I.A. OVER ROLE IN U.S.

Calls for Helms to Resign as Envoy after Reports of Domestic Dossiers

PROTESTS WIDESPREAD

Reaction Is Strong Among Congress Members and Ex-Intelligence Aides

By SEYMOUR M. HERSH
Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Dec. 22 — Senator William Proxmire called today for the resignation of Richard Helms, former Director of Central Intelligence, as Ambassador to Iran and said he would demand an investigation by the Justice Department of alleged domestic spying by the C.I.A.

The New York Times reported this morning that, according to well-placed Government sources, the C.I.A., in direct violation of its charter, had mounted massive, illegal intelligence operations during the Nixon Administration against members of the antiwar movement and other dissident groups inside the United States.

Mr. Proxmire's reaction was among widespread calls by members of Congress and former intelligence officials for an investigation and hearings.

The Times's sources said that the C.I.A. under Mr. Helms had established intelligence files on at least 10,000 American citizens. Mr. Helms was named Ambassador to Iran in February, 1973, after heading the C.I.A. since 1966. Today again, he could not be reached at the embassy in Teheran for comment.

Ready for a Trip

Charles Cline, the duty officer at the embassy, said he had seen Mr. Helms this morning and relayed a message from The Times, the third in three days, asking for comment on the report.

"He's out right now," Mr. Cline said. "He's getting ready for a trip."

It was understood that Mr. Helms, as a matter of policy, was reluctant to discuss a sensitive subject by long-distance telephone and had declined to accept a call from this reporter.

In today's report, the sources said that the C.I.A. had conducted dozens of illegal activities inside the counterintelligence operations against suspected foreign agents.

Under the 1947 law establishing the agency, all domestic intelligence functions, including those aimed at suspected foreign agents, were to be conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Mr. Proxmire has been a leading critic of the C.I.A. in recent years and has pressed for public disclosure of the secret C.I.A. budget and co-sponsored legislation that would restrict the agency's activities.

He said in a telephone interview that "the allegations indicate a systematic pattern of illegal activities that cannot be justified in the name of national security."

"Immediate and severe action is necessary," the Wisconsin Democrat said, "to preserve confidence in the intelligence establishment and, more importantly, to guarantee the rights of Americans under the Fourth Amendment."

Mr. Proxmire said he would write Secretary of State Kissinger tomorrow "to ask for the immediate resignation of Ambassador Helms."

"I also intend to write the Attorney General," the Senator said, "to ask for the prompt investigation of these allegation of illegal activities by C.I.A. agents, past or present, and the prosecution of every violation of the law."

Officials of the agency refused to comment today, but William E. Colby, the director of the C.I.A. since September, 1973, when he succeeded James R. Schlesinger, is known to have told associates recently that he was considering a request to the Justice Department for legal action against some of those who had been involved in the alleged domestic activities.

'An Outrageous Thing'

Representative Benjamin S. Rosenthal, a member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, said in a telephone conversation that he was planning to write Mr. Kissinger requesting the return of Mr. Helms for questioning before the committee.

"This is an outrageous thing," said the Queens Democrat. "Heads are going to have to roll if these allegations are proven true."

Mr. Rosenthal noted that the House Foreign Affairs Committee now shared jurisdiction over C.I.A. matters with the Intelligence subcommittee of the House Armed Services Committee.

Representative Lucien N. Nedzi, Democrat of Michigan, who is chairman of the Armed Services Intelligence subcommittee, said he wanted to "sort this thing out and look at the pieces."

"I'm very concerned about it," Mr. Nedzi added.

Mr. Colby is known to have briefed Mr. Nedzi and Senator John C. Stennis, Democrat of Mississippi and chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, last year on the alleged domestic spying activities. Mr. Stennis, despite repeated requests, has refused to comment.

Increasing Attack

It could not be learned whether Mr. Nedzi or Mr. Stennis shared their knowledge with other members of the Senate and House Intelligence subcommittees, whose supervision of C.I.A. activities has come under increasing attack inside and outside Congress.

Senator Stuart Symington, Democrat of Missouri, who is the second-ranking member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, indicated in a telephone conversation today that he had not been officially briefed on the alleged domestic spying.

"If the story is true," Mr. Symington said, "and I'm speaking as a member for many years of the subcommittee that is supposed to review the operations of the Central Intelligence Agency, it simply verifies the point that I've been making for many years, namely, that this agency does not have good supervision, or review by the Congress, or peer review. It actually has no real review at all."

In an interview on radio in Raleigh, N.C., Senator Sam J. Ervin Jr., the former chairman of the Senate Watergate committee who is retiring from the Senate, said he believed reports [illegible] spying by the C.I.A.

The North Carolina Democrat said he had become aware of some unauthorized C.I.A. activities while serving with the Watergate committee, but had decided not to pursue them.

"Most of it had no connection with Watergate and we had no authority to investigate anything but the Presidential election of 1972," Mr. Ervin said. "I wanted the committee, unlike the C.I.A., to stay on the reservation."

Former Officials Comment

John A. McCone, a former Central Intelligence director, and Lyman B. Kirkpatrick Jr., a former executive director of the agency, urged President Ford and Congress to investigate the alleged domestic spying, according to the Associated Press.

"I don't think an accusation as prominently displayed as this can be refuted merely on a denial by the agency itself," said Mr. McCone. "There should be a penetrating investigation either by the Congress or by President Ford's Foreign Advisory Board."

Mr. Kirkpatrick, now a professor at Brown University in Providence, R. I., said, "An investigation has now become inevitable."

The two former C.I.A. officials, who left the agency in the mid-nineteen-sixties, denied any knowledge of illegal domestic activities.

"In my connection as director of the agency and my connection with it since," said Mr. McCone, "I never heard of a single instance where the C.I.A. stepped over its charter and invelved itself with the responsibilities of the F.B.I."

STAT

Approved For Release 2005/11/28 : CIA-RDP91-00901R000600100001-3

WASHINGTON POST
23 DEC 1974

Approved For Release 2005/11/28 : CIA-RDP91-00901R000600100001-3

STAT

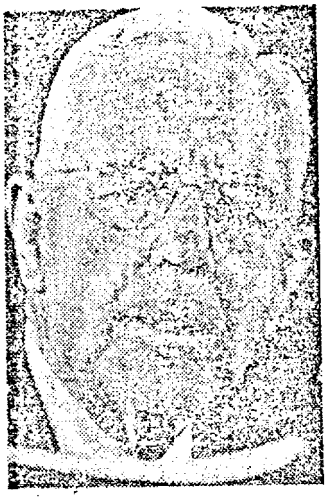
McCone Asks Ford, Congress To Probe Charges Against CIA

Former CIA Director John McCone and his executive director-controller, Lyman Kirkpatrick, yesterday urged President Ford and Congress to investigate charges that the Central Intelligence Agency mounted a huge campaign against antiwar forces in the United States during the Nixon era.

"I don't think an accusation as prominently displayed as this can be refuted merely on a denial by the agency itself," McCone said.

"There should be a penetrating investigation either by the Congress or by President Ford's Foreign Advisory Board."

Mr. Ford told newsmen in Grand Junction, Colo., that he had received a telephone call from CIA Director William E. Colby assuring him that "nothing comparable to what was stated in the article was



JOHN McCONE
... "I was amazed"

going on over there and I told him that under no circumstances would I tolerate any such activities under this administration."

Asked whether he knew about domestic CIA surveillance before he saw the article in Sunday's New York Times, Mr. Ford replied, "I had some partial information." But he sidestepped questions whether the Nixon administration was responsible for CIA abuses of power.

Kirkpatrick, now a professor at Brown University said: "An investigation has now become inevitable."

Both he and McCone denied, in separate Associated Press interviews, that any such program was under way when they ran the agency for several years through 1965.

If such a program, which The New York Times said included compiling intelligence dossiers on at least 10,000 American citizens including a congressman, came into existence, the intelligence experts blamed Nixon.

McCone said Nixon was "unduly agitated" about antiwar groups and might have issued direct orders, bypassing normal agency channels.

"I was amazed to read the article, and in my connection as director of the agency and my connection with it since, I never heard of a single instance where the CIA stepped over its charter and involved itself with the responsibilities of the FBI," he said.

"We had the closest possible relations with the FBI when I was there. What's happened since, I don't know. It's entirely out of character for the CIA to go beyond its charter.

"They (CIA) deal with foreign intelligence."

Kirkpatrick backed up this statement.

"To the best of my knowledge," he said, "there was never anything like this. If they did something like this, they were doing something they had no right to do and I deplore it."

The CIA gathers intelligence abroad and evaluates it at its headquarters in Northern Virginia. The FBI has an analogous task within the boundaries of the United

The former chief of the CIA's intelligence division, Ray S. Cline, discounted the report of domestic spying by the agency, calling The New York Times article "a pastiche of little gossipy stories." Cline, in a telephone interview with Washington Post reporter Marilyn Berger, said the CIA may well have kept a special file of names of Americans but that if it did exist, it was probably in connection with foreign intelligence activities.

Cline who joined the State Department in 1969, had left the agency by the time Nixon became President and said he could not vouch for what may have happened then. But he said he was 99 per cent certain that such domestic activities did not occur during his approximately 20 years with the agency, and was convinced that if Nixon had asked Richard Helms, then CIA director, to perform such illegal acts, "Helms would have had the good sense not to follow such orders (to carry out) domestic operations . . . He knows it's illegal, improper."

If the CIA has a file involving Americans, it could have been part of the normal sharing of information with the FBI, Cline said.

Sen. William Proxmire (D-Wis.) called for a Justice Department investigation and said he would ask Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger, to have Helms resign as ambassador to Iran, Associated Press reported.

Proxmire said that the "allegations indicated a systematic pattern of illegal activities that cannot be justified in the name of national security."

STAT

Approved For Release 2005/11/28 : CIA-RDP91-00901R000600100001-3